THIS IS THE 11TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE COMIC READER
MARC BILGREY -
MAY 22/78 -

THE COMIC READER

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35¢ 90 OCT.

NEWS

ORIGIN BOOK DELAYED: The large volume of origins that I mentioned last issue has been postponed till the spring or summer, because of a combination of business and production reasons. And, as long as they have a respite, no one is making a firm decision on format.

WELCOME to Don McGregor . He's a new editorial assistant up at Marvel.

WAR OF THE WORLDS DELAYED until No. 18 of Amazing Adventures due to deadline problems with Neal Adams. Replacing it in No. 17 will be a Beast reprint issue. The material will be the Beast origin from the back of the X-Men book.

BARRY SMITH HAS DEFINITELY LEFT CONAN with number 24. John Buscema will take over the pencilling chores. Number 26 will end the war series that has been running for the past few months. No. 27 will be the Buscema fill-in issue that was completed last month. It is an adaptation of a Conan story not printed in the paperbacks; one of a number of Conan On Crusade stories by Howard.

NEW TITLES will be abating in the next few months. On this month's Coming Comics list there are three, all reprint (Crazy, a Not Brand Ecch book, Vault Of Evil and SHIELD) and none on next month's. The Premiere books will stay put for a while, too.

ANT-MAN NEWS: Craig Russell is doing a few issues. Number 8 (of Marvel Feature, of course) will feature a reprint of the Wasp's origin with a frame of Starlin and Russell pages around it.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO? DEPT: Solomon Kane is alive and in the works, a year after being first contemplated. It'll be a one-shot story in a mystery book by Roy Thomas and Ralph Reese.

JOHN JAKES isn't working on any more Brak stories for comics, at this time, but he is doing a new mystery story for Marvel.

CONGRATS to Herb Trimpe & Linda Fite on their marriage.

TEAM-UPS: In Marvel Team-Up, Spider-Man and Thor, and Spider-Man and Sub-Mariner. And in Subby, Thor has a guest shot.

WRITER/ARTIST SWITCHES: Jim Starlin's on Iron Man 55 and 56. Bill Everett is leaving Sub-Mariner because he feels that if he can't do every issue, he shouldn't mess up deadlines for other folks. He will do a few "special" issues, as well as the art chores on the afore-mentioned Spidey-Subby Marvel Team-Up. Ron Goulart takes over on Warlock with No. 5. Steve Gerber will do Sub-Mariner and Daredevil. DD 97 and 98 are Conway plot, Gerber script, 99 on are pure Gerber.

POST OFFICE PLUG: Mike Friedrich wishes to play Devil's Advocate for the Post Office. He reports getting excellent mail service to his California hide-out from artists.

NATIONAL NEWS

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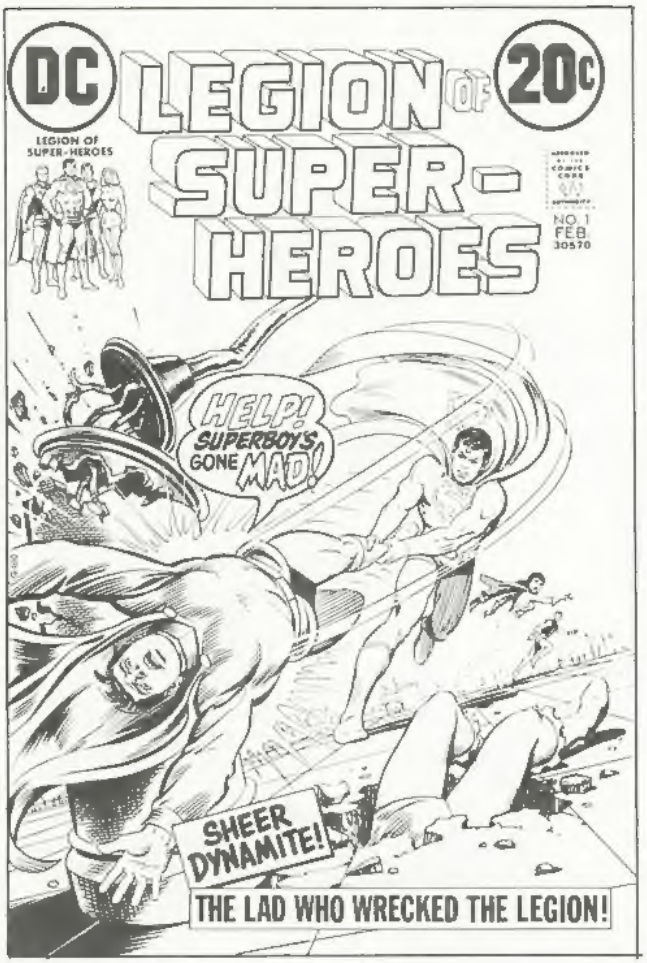


KIRBY CONCLUSION: As things turned out, Jack is remaining at National, at least until his contract expires two years from now (and you are a better man than most if you can predict what you'll want to do in two years).

Speaking of Jack, Kamandi attracted very strong mail.

NATIONAL IS BEGINNING A SERIES OF REPRINT TITLES.

Beginning in December, NPP will be publishing a number of reprint titles. The books have been given frequencies, but depending on certain factors within the industry, the entire reprint line may be cancelled at any time. Or, based on those same factors, they may be dropped and replaced with about ten titles featuring new material. Publisher Infantino reports that the ten books mentioned are not additional mystery or war titles, but experimental ideas. Now, on to the reprints:

DC 100 PAGE SUPER-SPECTACULAR: There'll be twelve issues in each year, but the titles have not been decided on. Strong favorites: Batman, Superboy, Flash, Superman, Justice League, and Shazam. Dropped from the old line-up of giants: Jimmy Olsen, Lois Lane, and World's Finest. A mystery giant is possible also.

Set for now: Batman in December and Superboy in January. The Shazam ish, if one is done, could contain any of the Fawcett material.

Nelson Bridwell will edit the series.

The Batman issue (DC-14) is the one that I reported in TCR 81, here's a recap:

Batman in "Bat-Gyro" a two parter from Detective Comics 31 & 32, which introduces Julie Madison and the Batarang. Also "The Batmobile Of 1950" from Detective Comics 156.

Doll Man in the story which introduced Elmo, his dog. Doll Man 31.

Wonder Woman in an untitled story from Sensation Comics 6 which told the origin of her lasso and the plane.

Wildcat in the story which introduced his cycle and Stretch Skinner (from Sensation 4).

Blackhawk & Co. in a story from No. 10.

The Superboy issue isn't finished yet but here's a partial list of the contents:

Sandman in "A Drama In Dreams" by Simon & Kirby.

The Boy Commandos in a well known story featuring Nostradamus by S&K.

Hawk & Dove in "Twice Burned" by Gil Kane.

Dial H For Hero is represented by "Dr Cyclops".

Aqualad's second appearance -- "The Menace Of Aqualad"

Plus two 50s Superboy stories: "Boy Of The Year Contest" and "Trial Of Superboy".

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN will be a monthly reprint title, using the Kirby-Wood material as long as it holds out. Edited by Nelson Bridwell.

DOOM PATROL will be a monthly reprint title, using assorted material from the title and from My Greatest Adventure. Edited by Jeff Rovin, newly promoted to editorial status (his chosen code letter is "Q").

FOUR STAR BATTLE TALES is a bi-monthly reprint title which will use the material from the old Johnny Cloud strip in All-American Men Of War. Edited by Jeff Rovin.

GI WAR TALES is a bi-monthly reprint title which will use the material from the old "War That Time Forgot" or "Dinosaur War" series in Star Spangled War Stories. Edited by Jeff Rovin.

JOHNNY THUNDER is a bi-monthly reprint title which will use the Toth western strip, backed up by Nighthawk. Edited by Nelson Bridwell.

LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES is a monthly reprint title which will use the Legion strip material from the 330's or so of Adventure, backed up by Tommy Tomorrow. Edited by Jeff Rovin.

METAL MEN is a bi-monthly reprint title which will use the old material pretty much in order. Edited by Jeff Rovin.

All the books are limited to using stories that DC has negatives of in the files (in other words, no Golden Age stuff and gaps in the 50s and early 60s). Most issues will have reprint covers. All books will have new text pages, most staring with a "Meet The..." series.

TEEN TITANS and TRIGGER TWINS are monthly and bi-monthly, respectively, but firm decisions on their set-ups have yet to be made by editor Nelson Bridwell.

All books that are continuations will continue their original number sceme.

ACTION COMICS NEWS: Coming up is the origin of The Human Target, a two-part story in 422 and 423. Green Arrow is the back-up for 421 as he becomes a PR man and sets the Canary up in a new flower shop. Art on that story by Sal Amendola.

BATMAN HOLIDAY ISSUE this Christmas. It'll feature two Batman stories, one of which will be Dick Giordano's first pencil/ink job on The Batman (18 page).

DARK MANSION has been reprieved. There will be either a short (one or two month) gap in production, or none at all. Sales had picked up fantastically as of the first Orlando-edited issue.

ATOM RETURNS in Detective Comics 432, script by Maggin, art by Anderson.

STEVE MITCHELL has diversified and added writing (two scripts for Archie Goodwin) to his inking credits.

ALEX TOTH strikes in a near future issue of Our Army At War.

SHADOW seems to be a hard book to get any work done on. Jim Steranko is not going to do work on it after all, and regular writer Len Wein didn't do the first issue (editor Denny O'Neil filled-in). No artist is even half set yet.

NO DECISION YET on the final fate of Weird Worlds, or the existance of a line of digests. Final sales figures aren't in yet.

BEYOND THE FARTHEST STAR will be drawn by Howe Chaykin from now on.

JONAH HEX is supposed to be attracting very good mail.

MURPHY ANDERSON is the new inker on Dick Dillin's pencils for World's Finest Comics.

JUNIOR BULLPEN RUNDOWN:

Actual, paying positions won't be open until National moves into its new offices in Spring or Summer 1973. At that time, 6 writing and 6 artistic positions will be open.

In the meantime, send samples. All samples sent will be looked over by Sol Harrison (whose brainchild the program really is) and an editor or two. Eventually, you will get a letter with constructive criticism and/or an invite to do work. As a result of the announcement in TCR, Sol has been swamped by samples, and it will take him a while to catch up.

Around July Con, when many fans will be in New York anyway, National will hold an open house for promising young writers and artists and discuss their work with the various editors. The idea is to set aside a day or two when everyone can be taken care of.

For New York/New Jersey area folks whose samples have shown promise, there will be a series of sketch classes (invitation only) held in the evening, once a month starting this month. Weekend afternoon seminars with staff super-talents like Kubert and Orlando will be held also.

LATE NEWS NOTES (so pardon my lack of continuity):

The new series of Super-Spectaculars won't be double numbered. In other words, they'll only have "DC-14" on them, or whatever. Also, most of the covers won't be wrap-around. They will be like the one on the first Superman Super-Spectacular.

The final stories for the Superboy volume: "The Boy Who Was Stronger Than Superboy" from Adventure Comics No. 273 and "Superbaby's Search For A Pet" from Superboy 130.

Coming in Demon 6 is a switch on the werewolf theme, as Kirby presents "The Howler".

- -

ON UNDERGROUNDS: Mike Friedrich and an unnamed partner are embarking on a side line underground publishing venture, bringing some "straight" pros into the underground field. A first comic is in production and a second is planned. He won't reveal names till he goes to print, but it'll knock folks off their heads.

FOR NEW READERS: COMING COMICS is a directory of the upcoming month's releases from major comic art publishers. The listings follow this format:
TITLE (Number, cover date). Description of contents. (On sale date)

£ £ £

INCREDIBLE HULK (160, Feb.). "Nightmare In Niagra Falls" as The Hulk goes visting the newleyweds. Script by Steve Englehart, art by Herb Trimpe and Sal Trapani. (10/31)

KID COLT OUTLAW (167, Feb.). (10/31)

MILLIE THE MODEL (200, Feb.). (10/31)

DAREDEVIL (96, Feb.). The wind-up of the Man-Bull series as Gerry Conway bows out as scripter. Art by Gene Colan and Tom Palmer. (10/31)

CHILI (21, Feb.). (10/31)

MONSTERS ON THE PROWL (21, Feb.). (10/31)

IRON MAN (55, Feb.). Introducing the Destroyer and a new batch of characters called the Titans. Plot and art by Jim Starlin. Inks by Mike Esposito. Script by Mike Friedrich. (10/31)

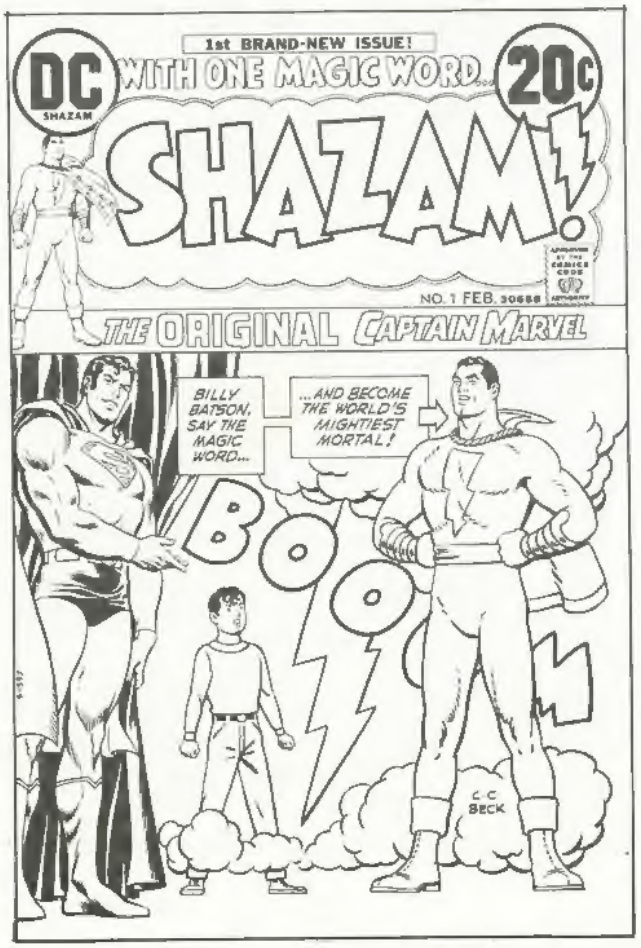
WYATT EARP (32, Feb.). (10/31)

THE OUTLAW KID (14, Feb.). Versus the ""Calibre City Kids". Script by Gary Friedrich, art by Dick Ayers and Jack Abel. (10/31)

SHIELD (1, Feb.). "When The Unliving Strike" and "The Enemy Within", from Strange Tales 146 & 147. Lee & Heck. New Steranko cover. (10/31)

£ £ £

VAULT OF EVIL (1, Feb.). A new bi-monthly reprint mystery title. (11/7)



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THOR (208, Feb.). Introducing the 4-D Man, a new foe for Thor. Script by Gerry Conway, art by John Buscema. (11/7)

THE X-MEN (80, Feb.). "Beware The Juggernaut, My Son" from No. 32. Script by Roy Thomas, art by Werner Roth. (11/7)

SUB-MARINER (58, Feb.). Introducing a new girl character to the series. Art by Sam Kweskin and Bill Everett. (11/7)

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (117, Feb.). Part two of the Smasher story from the Spiderman Spectacular. Additional script and art by Conway and John Romita. (11/7)

AVENGERS (108, Feb.). It's new plot time at Avengers HQ, and I don't know any details, sorry. Script by Steve Englehart, art by Don Heck & Dave Cockrum. (11/7)

CAPTAIN AMERICA (158, Feb.). The end of the Viper, plus a surprise villain at the story's end. Steve Englehart and Sal Buscema. (11/7)

MARVEL TRIPLE ACTION (9, Feb.). "Now By Hand Shall Die A Villain" from The Avengers 15, script by Jack Kirby, art by Don Heck. (11/7)

DOC SAVAGE (3, Feb.). Introducing Ulla and the Silver Death's Heads. Script by Steve Englehart, art by Ross Andru and Ernie Chua. (11/7)

£ £ £

RAWHIDE KID (108, Feb.). (11/14)

CONAN THE BARBARIAN (23, Feb.). "The Shadow Of The Black Vulture", postponed from last issue, continues the saga of the war. Cover by Gil Kane (Smith didn't want to do a second cover for the same story), interior art by Smith & Adkins, script by Roy Thomas.(11/14)

HERO FOR HIRE (6, Feb.). "Knights In White Satin", an attempted murder mystery. Script by Steve Englehart, art by Billy Graham and Paul Reinman. (11/14)

MARVEL TALES (41, Feb.). "Disaster" from Spidey 56, by Lee & Romita. (11/14)

ASTONISHING TALES (16, Feb.). More of Ka-Zar in the Concrete Jungle as he takes on "The Pusher". Script by Mike Friedrich, pencils by Rich Buckler and John Buscema (JB had to do the last few pages due to deadlines), inks by Chic Stone. (11/14)

COMBAT KELLY (5, Feb.). No info. (11/14)

GUNHAWKS (3, Feb.). The Gunhawks head for Indian country. Script by Gary Friedrich, art by Syd Shores. (11/14)

FEAR (12, Feb.). A manhunt for Man-Thing, with a very unusual ending. Script by Steve Gerber, art by Jim Starlin and Rich Buckler. (11/14)

SUPERNATURAL THRILLERS (2, Feb.). "The Invisible Man", a book-length adaptation by Ron Goulart with art by Val Mayerick and Dan Adkins. (11/14)

£ £ £

WARLOCK (4, Feb.). Death comes to one of the counter-earth crew in "Come Sing A Searing Song Of Vengeance." Script by Mike Friedrich, art by Gil Kane and Tom Sutton. (11/21)

OUR LOVE STORY (21, Feb,). (11/21)

SGT. FURY (107, Feb.). "In The Desert To Die" from No. 37 by Roy Thomas & Dick Ayers. (11/21)

FANTASTIC FOUR (131, Feb.). This ish takes us to the Hidden Land of the Inhumans, where The Human Torch and Quicksilver are fighting for a reason that will shock you. Script by Roy Thomas, art by John Buscema (I think). (11/21)

LI'L KIDS (10, Feb.). Introducing a new strip (original material) named Calvin by Kevin Banks. (11/21)

MARVEL SPOTLIGHT (8, Feb.). The Ghost Rider out west! "The Hordes Of Hell" Gary Friedrich & Mike Ploog. (11/21)

THE DEFENDERS (4, Feb.). A new member, although I'm sure you've met her before. One of the real surprises of the year. Script by Steve Englehart, art by Sal Buscema. (11/21)

JUNGLE ACTION (3, Feb.). (11/21)

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY (3, Feb.). "The Shadow On The Steeple", a Robert Bloch adaptation. Plus two other stories. (11/21)

SHANNA (2, Feb.). Script by Carole Seuling, art by Ross Andru and Vince Colletta (supposedly a surprisingly good art job). (11/21)

CRAZY (1, Feb.). A reprint of Not Brand Ecch No. 8, the saga of Forbush Man's search for a place in the world (or The Avengers, or the X-Men, or SHIELD). Reprinted in slighty mixed up order due to a clerical mistake, but with revised captions to cover. (11/21)

Coming Comics

NOTE PLEASE: All dates are culled from production schedules and are subject to change without notice by your friendly local newsdealer or wholesaler who decides that a book would look better on his shelf. So please excuse any discrepencies.

Pax.

OUR ARMY AT WAR (253, Jan.). Sgt. Rock concludes his battle with the Iron Major in this issue. Kanigher & Heath. (11/2)

GHOSTS (11, Jan.). "The Specter Who Stalked Cell Block 13" (art by Jerry Grandinetti), "Instrument Of Death" (art by Bob Brown), and "Next Stop Is Nowhere (art by Ernie Chua). (11/2)

FALLING IN LOVE (139, Feb.). (11/2)

BRAVE & BOLD (105, Feb.). Batman is teamed with Wonder Woman for "Play Now, Die Later." Script by Bob Haney, art by Jim Aparo. Cover printed in 89 of TCR. (11/2)

£ £ £

THE PHANTOM STRANGER (23, Feb.). The current multi-parter continues with "Panic In The Night" by Len Wein and Jim Aparo. Beginning in this issue, a new back-feature: The Spawn Of Frankenstein by Marv Wolfman and Mike Kaluta. (11/7)

WONDER WOMAN (204, Feb.). Robert Kanigher takes over as editor and begins "The New Adventures Of The Old Wonder Woman" with "The Rebirth Of Wonder Woman." Script by Kanigher, art by Don Heck & Henry Scarpelli. (11/7)

YOUNG ROMANCE (190, Jan.). (11/7)

TEEN TITANS (43, Feb.). This is the last Boltinoff/new material issue. "Inherit The Howeling Night" is the team tale, script by Bob Haney and art by Artie Saaf. Lilith's origin is revealed in "Please Tell Me My Name" with art by Ernie Chua. (11/9)

WEIRD WAR TALES (10, Jan.). "Who Is Haunting The Haunted Chateau?", "The Room They Remembered" and "Cyrano's Army." (11/9)

MISTER MIRACLE (12, Feb.). Scott makes a bet that he can get out of any trap. Then an ancient idol calls him and tells him that he must die. By Kirby, of course. (11/9)

KORAK, SON OF TARZAN (50, Feb.). Korak travels to the "Underworld" in his continuing search for Miriem. Script by Kanigher, art by Frank Thorne. Carson Of Venus battles "Terror From The Sky", script by Wein, art by Kaluta (11/9)

£ £ £

WITCHING HOUR (27, Jan.). "Wake Up And Dream" (art by Sal Amendola), "Journey To Oblivion", "Frightmare" (art by Win Mortimer), and "Bodies At 13 Ravenswood Lane". (11/14)

WANTED (5, Jan.). Doll Man versus "The Man In The Iron Mask" plus the modern Green Lantern in "Wizard Of The Light Wave Weapons". (11/14)

OUR FIGHTING FORCES (141, Feb.). The Losers meet the pirates again this ish. (11/16)

SUPERMAN (260, Jan.). Superman in "Keeper Of The Eternal Flame" by Elliot Maggin, Swan & Anderson. Plus The World Of Krypton - "Let My People Live" by Maggin, Bob Brown & Dave Cockrum. Cover by Cardy. (11/16)

STRANGE ADVENTURES (240, Feb.). "Lifeboat In Space", "Earth's Secret Visitors" and Adam Strange in "The Deadly Shadows Of Adam Strange," from M.I.S. 80. Cover by Kaluta. (11/16)

£ £ £

SUPERGIRL (2, Jan.). A diseased man is taken into Kandor for a cure, and then he starts growing. Script by Kanigher, art by Art Saaf and Vince Colletta. Zatanna meets "The Pied Piper Of Hamlin" in a story by Maxine Fabe, Don Heck, and Henry Scarpelli. (11/21)

FORBIDDEN TALES OF DARK MANSION (9, Feb). "Donovan's Demon", "Specter's Notebook" and "Head Of The House." (11/21)

YOUNG LOVE (102, Jan.). (11/21)

HOUSE OF MYSTERY (210, Jan.). "The Exterminator", "The Immortal" and "Body Beautiful". (11/23)

JIMMY OLSEN (155, Jan.). "The Downfall Of Judas Olsen" and "A Coffin For Mr. Action" (Jimmy's debut as the Action reporter). Both by Dorfman, Schaffenberger and Colletta. (11/23)

WEIRD MYSTERY TALES (4, Feb.). Now edited by Joe Orlando. "The Devil To Pay", "Secret Of Bat Island", "The Hotel" and "To Live Forever". (11/23)

THE DEMON (5, Jan.). Merlin takes a major role as Jason Blood investigates the power behind Ugly Meg. (11/23)

£ £ £

LOVE STORIES (148, Jan.). (11/28)

UNEXPECTED (143, Jan.). "Panic Grips Manhattan", "Fear Is A Nameless Voice" and"What Evil Lurks In The Night" (art by Jack Sparling). (11/28)

TARZAN OF THE APES (216, Jan.). "The Renegades", a new chaper in the legend by Joe Kubert. Beyond The Farthest Star by Chaykin & Kubert continues. (11/28)

HOUSE OF SECRETS (104, Jan). "Ghosts Don't Bother Me...But", "Dead Man's Doll" and "Lend Me An Ear". (11/30)

ACTION COMICS (420, Jan.). Superman in "Made To Order Menace" by Elliot Maggin, Swan & Anderson. Plus The Human Target in "The King Of The Jungle Contract" by Len Wein and Dick Giordano. (11/30)

DETECTIVE COMICS (431, Jan.). Batman in "This Murder Has Been Censored" by Denny O'Neil, Irv Novick and Murphy Anderson. Plus Jason Bard in "Crime On My Hands." Cover by Kaluta. (11/30)

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1972N COMIC ART FAN AWARDS ■ INSTRUCTIONS

This is the twelfth year of comics fan awards; it is for newsstand work dated 1972 and for non-newsstand work copyright or published in 1972. Anything except all-reprint work is eligible --but it must be from 1972.

Please wait to vote until the end of 1972, so that you see all possible eligible material; while newsstand-distributed material begins to show 1973 dating by October, eligible fanzines will be published through December. When you have seen all the material you want to consider, fill out and send in your nominating ballot. It must be mailed by February 1, 1973. (The second, final ballot, deadline will be June 1.)

Write in your favorite one in each category--except in story and fanzine categories, where you'll vote for your favorite two (in any order). Any more votes will disqualify your vote for the category. The final ballot is determined by nominations.

Any fan can vote once on both ballots. Obvious box-stuffing will lead to destruction of all connected ballots. If you are a faneditor, club president, comics dealer, etc., please circulate a facsimile of this entire ballot, including all instructions, word for word. You may lay out the form any way you wish, using any typeface you desire--but we request that you do not change, add to, or omit a word of it. We reserve the right to destroy altered ballots.

If you do not want to run the entire ballot, we would appreciate it if you would mention that anyone may get either ballot from Don & Maggie Thompson, 8786 Hendricks Road, Mentor, Ohio 44060, for a self-addressed, stamped envelope or a dime. (Please specify which ballot is being ordered.)

If you don't feel qualified to vote in any category, leave it blank. "No Award" and "Abstain" will be on the final ballot as options in all categories. If you don't want to use this ballot, you may simply list your choice in each category, but list your ballot source, please.

Final results will be mailed in early July to newszines and winners. If you would like to get the listing of results, you can get it for a dime or self-addressed, stamped envelope. (Please remember to indicate whether you want the nominating ballot, the final ballot, or the results, if you send us the 10¢ or envelope.)

1972 COMIC ART FAN AWARDS NOMINATING BALLOT

(1) Favorite Pro Artist (Any artist, based on work published in magazines distributed on the newsstand. Can be penciller, inker, colorist, etc.) _____

(2) Favorite Pro Writer (Any writer, based on work published in magazines distributed on the newsstand.) _____

(3) Favorite Pro Editor (Any editor of a newsstand comic.)

_____

(4) Favorite Pro Comic Book (Any kind--romance, funny animal, etc. Black and white or color. Definition of "Pro" is not that of money-making, but of nationwide newsstand distribution. Vote for title of comic, not issue number.) _____

(5) Favorite Non-Newsstand Comic Book (Any comic art which doesn't appear widely on newsstands; this can be fanzines with much comic art, "underground comix," or mail-order art from pros. Vote for title, not issue number.) _____

(6) Favorite Comic-Book Story (Any length, so long as it appears in one comic; only one installment of a serial would be eligible. Stories found in comics of Category 5 are eligible. Vote for two.)

_____

_____

(7) Favorite Comic-Book Character (A member of a group, a solo character, or some supporting character; those from Category 5 are eligible.)

_____

(8) Favorite Fanzine (A fanzine is any comics-related non-newsstand publication; it can be small- or large-circulation, printed or dittoed, newsletter or adzine or articlezine or whatever else doesn't fit Category 5. Vote for fanzine title, not issue number. Vote for two.) _____

_____

(9) Favorite Fan Writer (Scripter, article-writer, editor, or whatever you please--on the basis of work not in newsstand publications.)

_____

(10) Favorite Fan Artist (Spot illustrator, strip artist, underground cartoonist, etc.--on the basis of work not for newsstand publication.)

_____

Please write or print or type legibly. Sign here _____
and type or print your name under your signature.

Please list your source for this ballot here: _____
Mail all ballots by February 1, 1973, to:

1972 Comic Art Fan Awards
Don & Maggie Thompson
8786 Hendricks Road
Mentor, Ohio 44060

THE COMIC READER

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello. I guess you noticed that this issue is a bit late. You did, huh? Oh well, at least I have a good excuse -- a week in bed with a never-to-be-sufficently damned virus. However, getting past the usual garbage that I cover in my "Etc." column, I have a lot to talk about.

From the mailbag, I have concluded that the majority of you are interested in seeing more news (Gold Key, Charlton and book news included) in TCR. Also, you wouldn't mind seeing the articles dropped. So, I'm obliging you.

Beginning with this issue, this is The Comic Reader. I'm sick of the double name nonsense. It hurts reader-identification and it's a general pain in the ass. Also, there will be very few articles or advertisements in future issues. Most of the material will be news-oriented, plus maybe one or two short features.

Now, for the destiny of the articles and columns: most of them, along with many new features, will be appearing in a new article fanzine named Etcetera. The new Etcetera will be published quarterly, 40 pages, 60¢, and the first issue will be out in early January. I'm not editing this 'zine though. I've given it into Paul Kupperberg's able hands. I will, however, be the publisher. Already committed to do work on articles: Isabella, Greeniones, Tom Fagan, BoB Pinaha and a few others. I can't accept subscriptions, but I would appreciate advance orders of the first issue.

Then there's another new project of mine: True Fan Adventure Theatre. True F.A.T., as many of you know, is a fine fanzine of the old school which has lacked an editor and a publisher for about three years. Tony Isabella is putting it together, and I'm publishing it. For the statistics, just read from the previous paragraph, it's a companion to Etcetera. For those of you who never read an issue, it's a fanzine devoted to fictional stories about people who are comic fans or pros. When I first read a copy, I doubled over laughing at stories. There are no subs available, so all I'm asking you to do is risk 60¢. I really can't describe it properly, so just take it on faith, okay?

Together with TCR, I think they'll form 1973's most exciting line of fan publications. You'll see 12 TCRs, 4 Etceteras, and 5 True F.A.T.s in 1973, more than enough reading material to keep everybody busy. That should make for a good 12th Anniversary Year for comic fandom.

By the by, this is TCR's eleventh anniversary of independant publication (No. 1-3 were part of Alter-Ego and The Comicollector).

Back to the mailbag. That little () on the back label only means that your sub is expired when it's checked like this (/).

On why I sometimes don't list artists or writers or reprints: It's simple... I don't know them, and it's almost impossible for anyone to find the info out. You would be surprised at how few records are kept by comic book companies. My policy is to print all the available information on an issue.

On Marvel cover proofs: I see the light at the end of the tunnel. Not as many or as picked as those from DC, but some may be in TCR in the future.

On this issue's cover: Marc Bilgray, NYC comic fan, using a character from Larry Ivie's Monsters & Heroes mag. Contributions are welcomed (and that applies to all three TCR publications).

Next issue is supposed to be out on November 11th. It probably will be. Usual nonsense therein.

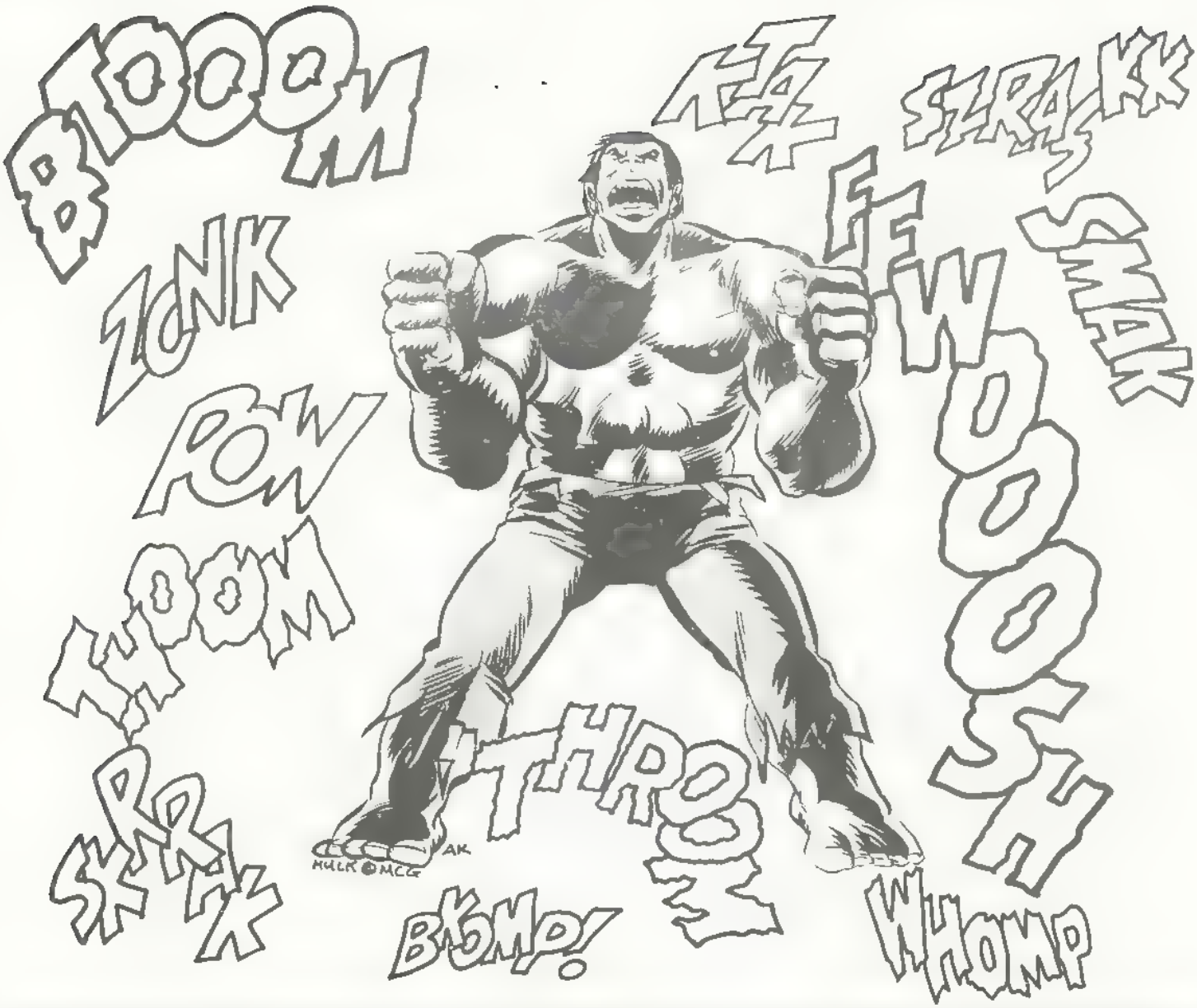
I believe this issue contains the 1973 Comic Art Fan Awards nominating ballot. I strongly urge everyone who reads TCR (and over-the-shoulder readers too) to vote in this poll. In last year's tally, more ballots came from TCR than anywhere else -- let's keep up this record. If you want a facsimile ballot, just write me and ask.

Time for my regular thank-you to the coallation crew who bring you TCR each month.

See you all at Creation 72?

CIRCULATION DATA

No. 87: 1200 printed, 1025 sold
No. 88: 1200 printed, SOLD OUT!
No. 89: 1200 printed, SOLD OUT!



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FANZINE REVIEWS

LIAM O'CONNOR

COMIC & CRYPT no. 6. It is a well layed out, thought out fanzine that has two interviews (Neal Adams and George Henderson) and several fine articles.

A Ken Barr cover of a huntress with a lizard leads off the issue, and it is a fine beginning.

The Adams interview is well done, with a few peaks into the future. Neal talks mostly about things that have come up since his last interview. A job well done although "no comment" on Neal's part was let slip by.

A strip by Hanley entitled "The Revenge Of Captain Marvel" is very comical & very satirical in Hanley's own great style.

"A Return To Greatness" is an article on the revitalization of Superman under Denny O'Neil. Well thought out and very interesting.

The Capt. George interview was every bit as good as the Adams, and did justice to Canada's foremost fan.

Now into the Crypt, King Kong is revisited and more is added to the legend, with the help of the script and director's notes (Yeah research!).

The Ronn Sutton portfolio is up to Ronn's usual high standards.

The piece on Vaughn Bodé's Sunpot is very informing and interesting with a chapter-by-chapter breakdown.

A Cosmicon report is as good as any con report that I've read recently, without taking up the whole book with details.

Art by Adams, Fujitake, Steranko, MacIntyre, Marchesano, and all the rest rounds out and balances the issue.

A fiction story, ads, art and letters round out the book. A good buy.

COMIC & CRYPT 6 is available from: Mark Sigal, 459 Lytton Blvd, Toront, Ontario, Canada. 85¢ per copy.

£ £ £

THE COLLECTOR no. 26. TC has always been a fine zine but this is one of the best issues yet.

A color cover and six page strip by Steve Ditko is beautifully written and drawn, as we have come to expect.

Book reviews from Tom Fagan cover the Batman and Superman hardcovers and a couple of others.

Ken Barr contributes art and his biography to this issue, as does Joe Sinnott. This is an excellent idea and should be continued.

A Tarzan portfolio by Newton Fabin and some pages from Joe Kubert's comic book version is next.

John Fantuccio turns in three pages of doodles, or what the heck does an artist do when he's bored. He also does a fine color centerspread of TC's resident super-hero.

There's also color work by Bill Black á la C.C. Beck on Capt. Marvel.

Giveaways from the radio age are the subject of a fine article by Bill Cantey.

Next is the third chapter of the superb series "Greenworm". Hanley at his best.

A one page interview with C.C. Beck and a page of his art follow. It seemed a bit rushed.

A Hyperman strip, as written by Tom Fagan, pencilled by Bill Wilson, and inked by Sinnott, Romeo, Adkins, Fritz, and Porter, concludes a multi-parter that began in fandom's antiquity. The inking (two pages per inker) is a new idea but it just might work.

I liked the issue very much, but looking it over once again, I feel that it shouldn't get an unqualified recommendation. Buy it if you enjoy the types of material mentioned.

COLLECTOR is available from: Bill Wilson, 1535 Oneida Drive, Clairon, Penn. 15025. $1 per copy.

£ £ £

I, Liam O'Connor, have written a full page review of COMIC CRUSADER 12. It cannot be printed for two reasons. One, there is no room in the issue, and, looking over the issue, I don't feel that I did it justice as is, much less in an abridged review. No comment but buy it: 50¢ from Martin Griem, Box 132, Dedham, Mass 02026.

- -

FANZINES FOR REVIEW should be sent to Liam O'Connor, TCR Publications, 393 E 58 St, Bklyn, NY 11203. We reserve the right not to review every zine sent in, and will give preference to high quality material.

ET AL..

From the gang at Phase: Unfinished Works:A Portfolio is ready for the printer. As soon as 100 more orders are received at the pre-publication price of $1.50 (post-publication $2) the book will go to print.

All of the art is unpublished material slated for His Name Is Savage No. 2 (the cover was slated for No. 3). Cover by Bob Foster (who did the first Savage painting),interior artwork by Neal Adams, Gil Kane, and Gray Morrow. From Phase, POB 218, Vanderveer Station, Bklyn, NY 11210.

£ £ £

From Newsweek, September 4, 1972: A half page article in the "Life & Leisure" section on "Comic Mania." It talked about the West Coast Comicon held at San Diego this August. Most of the facts were right, or at least close. Bravo Newsweek!

£ £ £

From Byron Preiss: A company has agreed to do 100,000 frames of microfilming of comics. It has been proposed to Bill Gaines that the entire EC line be reproduced in this manner.

£ £ £

From Neal Pozner: The seventh issue of Shazam! The Wonderful World Of Comix is at the publisher's. It will almost definately be out for Creation 1973. Meanwhile, back at NYAPA, a noble experiment has died of disinterest. The sixth mailing will probably be the last one, unless someone volunteers to be the new Central Mailer.

£ £ £

Special Report: The "Comic Book Day At The Flea Market" experiment failed miserably. Only some 25 comic book customers showed up, and dealers did not make any money.

£ £ £

From the wilds of Pittsburgh: The Pittsburgh Comics Club meets every second Saturday at 6:30 PM at various locations. For details, contact Ben Pondexter, 827 Anaheim Street, Pgh., Pa. 15219. (681-1268).

£ £ £

From the folks in Menomonee Falls: The Gazette is expanding with number 46. The new strips are: Doug Wildey's new strip, Ambler, beginning with its very first episode; Leonard Starr's On Stage; Neal Adams' old strip, Ben Casey (they have a complete run); and the Sunday Tarzan in black & white. At the same time, the cover price will be raised to 40¢ (no change in the sub rates or dealer's price though). On their other projects: Prince Valiant 1 and Jungle Jim 1 are both out. As things stand now, November will see the release of three or four more issues. Good chances include Val 2 and a Cisco Kid book.

Next Gazette expansion: at 1250 or 1300 subscribers.

£ £ £

From Sal Trapani: A Radio Con will be held on October 28 & 29 at the Howard Johnson Hotel in New Britain, Conn. (65 Columbus Blvd.). It is being sponsored by SAVE, the Society of American Vintage Radio Enthusiasts. Raymond (of the Inner Sanctum), William Spier (producer/director of Suspense), Bob Hastings (Archie on the radio), and Joe Franklin will be among the guests. A 48 page souvenir book will be issued. On the 28th there will be a dinner ($10 extra). Admission is $2 per day.

£ £ £

By the way, Paul Kupperberg sends word that Etcetera has added a few regular writers since I wrote my editorial. Among them: Gary Brown, Neal Pozner, and Liam O'Connor.

£ £ £

The English fanzine, Comic Media, will be reprinting half of a Modesty Blaise story in each issue beginning with No. 8. That issue contains Part 1 of the history of sf, an enlarged/updated version of Tom Greeniones Radar article on Richard Corben (illustrated), part 1 of an Underground Comix checklist, and The Economics of Comics by Donald Milner, plus the British edition of TCR. It's 32 pages, and available for 60¢ from me when it comes out in a month or two.

£ £ £

From the World Con at LA:

This year the world SF con was held in LA over the Labor Day weekend. Pro Guest of Honor was Fredrick Pohl, Fan Guests were Robert & Juanita Coulson, and the toastmaster was Robert Bloch.

Events included talks on the future of sf fandom, the art of animation, the Tolkien phenomenon, sf movies, the art of writing sf, relevance in sf, a costume ball, and, of course, the Hugo Award ceremonies. This year's awards:

Best Novel: 1. To Your Scattered Bodies Go, Philip José Farmer. 2. The Lathe Of Heaven, Ursula K. LeGuin. 3. Dragonquest, Anne McCaffrey.

Best Novella: 1. The Queen of Air and Darkness, Poul Anderson. 2. A Meeting With Medusa, Arthur C. Clarke. 3. The Fourth Profession, Larry Niven.

Best Short Story: 1. Inconstant Moon, Larry Niven. 2. Vaster Than Empires And More Slow, Ursula K. LeGuin. 3. The Autumn Land, Clifford D. Simak.

Best Dramatic Presentation: 1. A Clockwork Orange. 2. The Andromeda Strain. 3. THX 1138.

Best Professional Artist: 1. Frank Kelly Freas. 2. Jeff Jones. 3. John Schoenherr.

Best Professional Magazine: 1. The Magazine Of Fantasy And Science Fiction. 2. Analog Science Fiction - Science Fact. 3. Amazing Stories.

Best Amateur Fanzine: 1. Locus, Charles & Dena Brown, eds. 2. Energumen, Mike & Susan Glicksohn, eds. 3. Granfalloon, Ron & Linda Bushyager, eds.

Best Fan Writer: 1. Harry Warner Jr. 2. Terry Carr. 3. Susan Glicksohn.

Best Fan Artist: 1. Tim Kirk. 2. William Rotsler. 3. Alicia Austin.

Special Awards: Book Production to France's Club du Livre d'Anticipation. Anthology Editing to Harlan Ellison. Magazine Production: Spain's Nueva Dimension. /Hugli

£ £ £

From Robert (The Rotten) Greenberger: A new fanzine by the name of Hemoglobin will debut at Creation. 28 offset wraparound pages with a Brunner poster, 50¢. Cover by Brunner; articles by Potter, Anderson, Matthews, and Kasakove; art by Kato (including back cover), Warner, Pozner and Calucci. The publisher is Scott Harris.

£ £ £

From Phenomenal Phil Seuling: Lafayette High School, in our native Brooklyn, now offers a half-term elective English course in comic books. Comics have been supplied by Warren, Archie, DC and Marvel. Fanzines (like TCR) are also being used. And guess which con man is the teacher?

On Second Sunday: From November on it will be held at the MacAlpin Hotel (site of the 72 EC Con) at 6th Ave & 34th St. The October one is being held (or was held) on Oct. 15 at the District 65 Union Hall at 140 E 8th St, near Broadway, on the 11th floor.

On July Con: The site is the Commodore.

£ £ £

CREATION CON 72 IS COMING: and Kelly Freas will give the keynote address, answer questions, and has designed the tickets. Issac Asimov will give a speech. Also slated is an ACBA panel and display, and an art display. Two progress reports and a 32 page pocket program are slated. Also on tap is an sf writers panel. Friday, November 24, Noon to 7 PM, Saturday & Sunday 10 AM to 7 PM. $3 in advance, $4 at the door. $2 supporting. Write: Adam Malin, 16 E2 St, Freeport, NY 11520.

£ £ £

THE MONSTER TIMES: TMT has a new distributer, and hopes to be back on a regular schedule very soon. 16 came out as this TCR went to press and will be on sale for a month, as will 17 in all probability. Then it may go back to every two weeks. If you can't get TMT in your area, WRITE them. This is very necessary. Send addresses of the specific newsstands. This also applies right here in NYC.

£ £ £

MARK HANERFELD last spotted wearing a barrell and carrying a funny lantern, hunting for the true comic fan.

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NEWS NOTES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Attention: Some time ago, the originals to an issue of Conan by Smith were stolen from Marvel's warehouse. Editor Thomas is especially anxious to get all pages back in the files (for eventual reprint duty) and will press charges against anyone he sees selling the material at any time. However, he is also offering a reward for the return of the art, no questions asked. Okay, people, let's try and avoid encouraging rip-offs.

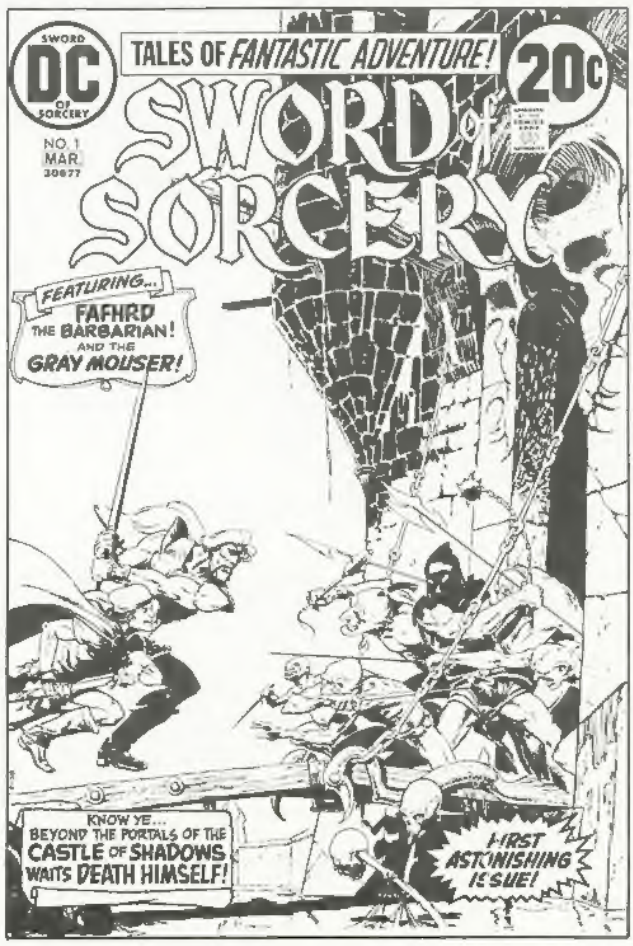
Credits on the Shazam cover printed on page 5 read: Cardy Superman, Anderson Superman face, Beck Capt Marvel.

Ye editor will probably be dropping by Malachy McCourt's radio show on WMCA one Sunday night at 7 sometime towards the end of October to talk about comic books and fandom. A certain Frank McCourt is an English teacher in my school, in case you're wondering how this happened. Wish me luck.

Gardner Fox has a story in the current Fantastic, while Gerry Conway is in the current Amazing.

Howe Chaykin, Denny O'Neil and Steve Skeates gave a seminar at NYU's Bronx campus the other day.

ON GOLD KEY: A Gold Key news section and listing will begin in the next issue of TCR. Due to various factors, it was delayed and could not begin this month.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Warren Publishing will be issuing a full color (not four-color, full color) comic in November or December. I have seen it but am forbidden to tell you certain details. I can say that it is bigger than an ordinary comic book, and more expensive, and the name is Dracula. I am also allowed to say that it contains a mixed batch of material, including "barbarian" type stories, and I think that anyone who doesn't order a copy will be kicking himself for a loooong time to come.

It will probably be previewed in an eight page color supplement to Creepy 51 and Vampi 22.

Steve Englehart has written four issues of Vampi (the first under the name of Chad Archer) and then Len Wein will take over (with No. 25).

Tomb Of The Gods is being dropped from Vampi in favor of a new series.

Suso, Rubio, and Dominguez are not doing any more stories. Dominguez is the new back-up cover artist.

Creepy, Eerie and Vampi are all going to eight times a year plus one special issue each (the Vampi Special will have a new lead story).

COMING IN NOVEMBER:

EERIE (45, Feb.). "The Mound" (story & art by Sutton), "R&, Master Of Men" (story by Turner, art by Salvador), "When Wakes The Drummer" (story by McGregor, art by Suso), "A Blade For The Teacher" (Bill Warren and Dominguez), "Man Eater" (story by Skeates, art by Rubio), "Ecology Of Death" (story by Doug Moench, 2 pg), and Dax The Warrior in "The Witch" (by Moroto). Cover by Dominquez. (11/21)

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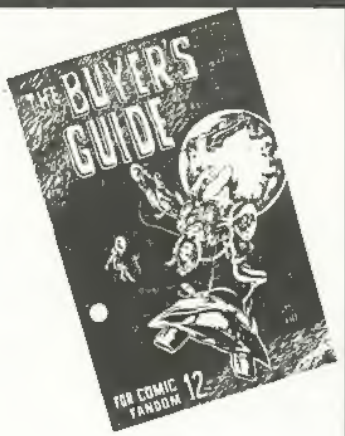

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The following back issues of The Comic Reader are still available as this issue goes to press.

Number 85 (May, 1972). Undergrounds, Radar In The Void, Comic Economics, more. Five copies left!.....35¢

Number 86 (June 1972). 28 Page Special Convention Edition. The Wandering Fan, Comics History, True Confessions 1, Radar In The Void, cover by Kupperberg & Mitchell, much more. Twenty copies left!.....35¢

Number 87 (July 1972). The Wandering Fan, Jach Spake, Undergrounds, Shazam news, cover by Kupperberg, more...35¢

Special: All three for $1.

Numbers 88 and 89 are sold out.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

NOTE: The comics listed as "For Sale" last month were all sold to various folk. Thanks very much for your orders.

REMINDER: Number 91 out on November 12th (I hope).

JANUARY !

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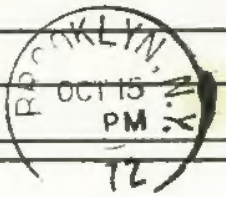

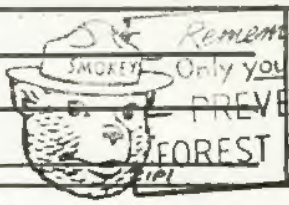

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